



---

## OFFICE MEMORANDUM

---

**DATE:** May 1, 2001

**TO:** Region Engineers  
Region Associate Delivery Engineers  
Region Construction Engineers  
Resident/Project Engineers/TSC Managers  
Region Traffic Engineers

**FROM:** C. Thomas Maki  
Chief Operations Officer

Gary D. Taylor  
Chief Engineer/Deputy Director  
Bureau of Highway Technical Services

**SUBJECT:** Bureau of Highway Instruction Memorandum BOH IM 2001-06  
Asphalt Binder on Local Agency Projects

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) no longer tests asphalt cement for the purpose of measuring penetration and/or viscosity for acceptance on any of its projects. All asphalt cement used to produce bituminous mixtures on MDOT and local agency construction projects are Performance Graded (PG) binders. These binders are expected to meet the specification requirements as outlined in Table 904 - 1 of the 1996 Standard Specifications.

Currently, MDOT allows asphalt cement suppliers to certify PG binders for all state and local construction projects.

Certified suppliers of PG binder are required to submit samples to MDOT of the various binders they produce prior to the start of each construction season and maintain a quality control program throughout the season. During construction, daily samples of binder are collected from each MDOT construction project for certification verification purposes. These daily samples are randomly tested for specification compliance; if deficiencies are found, they are reported to the project engineer. These samples are representative of the PG binders used for all state and local projects.

With MDOT certification in effect, it will no longer be necessary for local agency engineers to take routine daily samples and test them for acceptance on their construction projects. Any special provisions related to price adjustments on asphalt binders will not be needed for future local projects. Documentation requirements for all projects will require the contractor to provide written certification that the materials

used in the bituminous mixture are from the same source as the materials used in developing the bituminous mixture design and the bond coat is from an MDOT approved source.

These changes shall also apply to local projects that are currently active or under records review. A written materials certification will be the only required project documentation for asphalt binders and bond coat.

MDOT's asphalt binder certification program assures that the materials provided by certified suppliers are in compliance with the requirements of Table 904 - 1. A list of certified suppliers is contained in MDOT's Materials Source Guide. These certified suppliers must be used on all projects to be covered by MDOT's binder certification program.

The attached Special Provision for Sampling Asphalt Binder on Local Agency Projects may be used to obtain PG binder samples for informational purposes, if desired.

Transportation Service Center managers are advised to distribute this instructional memorandum to local agencies under their jurisdiction. Please contact Mike Frankhouse at 517-322-5672 if you have any questions.

---

Chief Operations Officer

---

Chief Engineer/Deputy Director  
Bureau of Highway Technical Services

BOHTS:C/T:MF:kab

Attachment

Subject Index: Bituminous

cc: C & T Staff

Design Division, P. Miller

Traffic & Safety Division, J. O'Doherty C & T Division, J. Culp

OEO - S. El Ahmad

R. Knapp

B. Jay

MRBA

MCPA

MAA

CRAM

Real Estate, M. Frierson

Maintenance Division, C. Roberts

J. Klee

V. Blaxton

K. Trentham

MAPA

MCA

AUC

MRPA

BOH IM 2001-06

-3-

May 1, 2001

ACEC

MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

SPECIAL PROVISION  
FOR  
**SAMPLING ASPHALT BINDER ON LOCAL AGENCY PROJECTS**

C&T:MF

1 of 1

03-26-01

C&T:APPR:JAR:JTL:03-29-01

**Delete Subsection 501.04.A.2**, Asphalt Binder, on page 5.14 of the 1996 Standard Specifications for Construction and replace with the following.

2. Original samples of asphalt binder will be taken by the Contractor and delivered to the Engineer prior to incorporation into the mixture. The frequency of sampling shall be determined by the Engineer. The cost of obtaining and delivering the samples to the Engineer shall be included in the bituminous pay items.

The Contractor shall certify in writing that the materials used in the bituminous mixture are from the same source as the materials used in developing the bituminous mixture design and the bond coat is from an approved certifier as stated in MDOT's Material Source Guide.